

Using an Object Model to Improve Handling of Personally Identifiable Information

The present invention involves providing in a computer a first set of object classes representing active entities in an information-handling process, wherein a limited number of privacy-related actions represent operations performed on data, and providing in the computer a second set of object classes representing data and rules in the information-handling process, wherein at least one object class has rules associated with data. The invention also involves using the above-mentioned objects in constructing a model of an information-handling process, and providing output that identifies at least one way in which the information-handling process could be improved. One aspect of the present invention is a method for handling personally identifiable information. Another aspect of the present invention is a system for executing the method of the present invention. A third aspect of the present invention is as a set of instructions on a computer-usable medium, or resident in a computer system, for executing the method of the present invention.